THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) According to the National Sample Survey Organisation in the 53rd round, the literacy rate in the country at the end of 1997 was 62%. At present an annual rate of literacy growth of approximately 1.82% is being maintained as per these figures.

(b) Government has made continuous efforts to achieve the goal of adult literacy and universalisation of elementary education within a given time frame. Details of the steps taken are:

- The National Literacy Mission aims at imparting functional literacy to threshold, sustainable level of 75% by the year 2005.
- Total Literacy Compaigns have covered approximately 80 million adults in 457 districts.
- Focus on woman's literacy and greater involvement of Panchayati Raj institutions.
- Continuous Monitoring and Review of all programmes.
- Energetic action to achieve universalisation of elementary education through mission mode and through complementarity of actions between the governmental and non-governmental sectors at various levels. This is a continuing exercise with a new thrust.

Failure of centrally-sponsored education programmes in Orissa

1040. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the Centrally-sponsored education programmes in Orissa have failed;

(b) whether the objectives of the programmes had been reviewed from time to time; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) The Department has not received any specific complaint regarding

implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Orissa. It is understood that these are being implemented as per the approved pattern. Schemes and Programmes have in-build provisions of monitoring and evaluation, including external evaluations by expert agencies, to ascertain the progress of implementation and trends emerging from time to time.

Recruitments in KVS by Educational Consultants India Ltd.

1041. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan had entrusted the work of recruiting different categories of teachers and non-teaching employees in 1999 to an agency called Educational Consultants India Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons that prompted the Sangathan to do so;

(c) whether many Principals of KVS were entrusted with the work of evaluating answer scripts of candidates;

(d) whether some question papers had leaked out and re-examinations were held to contain the large scale irregularities indulged in; and

(e) if so, the action taken to fix responsibilities therefor and penal action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWARD PATIL): (a) The work relating to recruitment of different categories of teaching posts only was entrusted to Educational Consultants India Ltd.

(b) This was done to ensure greater degree of objectivity, transparency, uniformity in standards and selection of teachers on the basis of merit as independently assessed on uniform and standardised criteria.

(c) Some of the Principals of KVS were entrusted with the work of test checking the evaluated answer sheets for the post of Post Graduate Teachers to re-check correctness of computer generated assessments.

(d) and (e) No irregularities were reported in the process. However, for the examination for the post of Drawing Teacher, the wrong question paper was opened in one Centre in the First Session. Though in the inquiry it was found that this had not led to a leakage, but to keep the process totally above board it was decided to hold the examination of this paper again.